

Holy Cross Service Society, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India

Annual Report : 2023– 2024

Holy Cross Service Society, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India founded by Prof.Dr.S.Prabakar Immanuel, a professional in the field of Disability, is an NGO with focus on professional, Right Based, Inclusive, comprehensive and family and community involved assistance to all children with special needs as well as persons with Disabilities. The Services include Prevention, Early identification and Intervention, Education, Therapy, CBR, Vocational Training and Rehabilitation, Training to NGOs, workers of Disabled, Government Personnel, ICDS staff and Production of Books, Videos and Awareness Materials. To know more about Holy Cross Service Society log on to web site: hcsstrichy.in (or) hcsstrichy in face book.

Within the community and family we ensure gender equality and right based support through individual based intervention plans.

The focus of our efforts namely inclusion, social living , family participation, Individual based education assistance for successful living within community and family, all remain functional and could achieve the goals. The different dimension of services which Holy Cross Service Society focused could be implemented successfully. The inclusive education, early intervention, community based services, special need support to failing and dropout children, vocational training and rehabilitation and therapy support to the needy children, all continued.

In the Early Intervention Program for children with Speech and Delayed development, children below 6 years with development delays are getting goal oriented individual based intervention. The Day care centre for language and development delayed children continued to assist children for the special needs based on the individual needs. The children who could come for therapy support continued to get individual based therapy and also guidance to parents. Rural early intervention unit at village Athavathur and Vadugarpet have become functional and many children in an around these villages are approaching us for support. The need for early intervention facility for rural children is very important. Parents training and parents meeting and family counseling was done. Therapy support including Speech, Vision, Language, Art, Physiotherapy, Sensory Auditory – verbal & Auditory – perceptual was done to the children based on the individual needs. D.L.S, Gross motor, Fine motor, Memory, Attention and concentration Computer skills are given based on the needs of the individual child. The most positive impact related to the participation of parents in meeting the special needs. The early intervention knowledge gained is given to other NGOs through networking and training the coworkers. More than 110 children below 6 years received support based on their

special needs. One important learning related to the cochlear implanted children and their difficulties to gain any support for the implant needs. This has been our concern and we are trying to convince all concerned to focus on language / speech based cochlear implant support.

The rural early intervention unit is supporting 32 children with special needs from the villages around Athavathur. The parents are part of this effort.

The Education for children with disabilities in regular schools with peers was implemented. Provision of support through special need educators to meet the special needs of children with disabilities was done. This includes meeting standards and syllabus of the general school system. This Integrated Education could assist more than 190 children with special needs in the regular schools with professional support from our Special need Support Educators. This experience had helped us to develop an unique model programme through community based facilitators in 15 government and aided schools in Andanallur block for supporting children with special needs. More than 100 children are enrolled for special need assistance through professionally trained workers.

The achievement include following General school syllabus, teaching Tamil, English, Mathematics , Science and Social as per the syllabus of the grade level, therapy support for children with special needs, assistance to parents through meeting and counseling sessions, participation of parents in evaluation and learning of children, skills in art, craft, play, cultural and computer related aspects.

The services to severe children with disabilities, autism, and multi handicap are a great contribution to the needs of these groups of children. They are severely affected and hence need ongoing support to meet their needs. Parents of these groups of children are more challenged. These children gain skills in Basic needs, life oriented education, Living skill, Social and emotional needs, Psychological needs, Medical needs, motor needs. Behavior needs. Life oriented education including leisure time activity, play, art, craft work, sports and pre-vocational skill development and family living are the focus of the training and being achieved. Parents could continue the training at home and also able to help children to live their life as participatory member within the family. The life skills gained children to live their life independently as well as participate socially in their home environment. Nearly 110 children with severe conditions including deafblindness and multi handicapping conditions are assisted on individual basis. Assessment based intervention, skill development in pre-vocational and vocational skills are part of this effort. The knowledge and expertise gained with severe handicap and multi handicapped helped us to promote a new community based approach for severe and multi handicap children.

Holy Cross CBR Model:

- A. **Direct Services:** Services to the CWDs with specific goal oriented Individual Intervention plans.
- B. **Direct Services through partner NGOs:** Services to the CWDs with specific goal oriented Individual Intervention plans through partner NGOs who network with us to promote quality of services to children with disabilities. NGOs desirous of promoting IEPs can contact us for participating in our networking concept of promoting individual based intervention services to children with disabilities.

C. Other services offered in CBR :

- New client identification
- Prevention / Awareness campaigns
- Medical camps / Screening camps.
- Surgical support
- Scholarship
- Loans from Banks / Government.
- Orthotic appliances , Spectacles , Hearing Aids and Ear Moulds
- Old age Pension – Family Pension
- Houses for Poor – rural disabled (from Government resources)
- Tricycles (from Government sources)
- Bus pass
- Mother and child care assistance
- ID cards
- Government concessions for examinations.
- Vocational Assistance.

Assessment facilities for the following are available:

- psychological assessment (IQ)
- developmental assessment
- PDD / Autism assessment
- learning disability assessment
- educational assessment for children studying in English medium schools
- language cognitive skill assessment for UKG / I grade children
- behaviour assessment
- vision assessment
- hearing assessment
- speech assessment
- language assessment
- new born screening tool

More than 200 children received assessment and nearly 90 children received therapy support.

Training center for special need children is an effort to promote individual based training support focusing on academic, pre-vocational, special and developmental needs.

Holy Cross Service Society is a pioneer in promoting individual based intervention plans for failing and drop out children from general schools. These children with disabilities after few years in general schools are failing and reaching us with behavior problems. A structured programme helps these children to gain life skills, educational skills and vocational skills. More than 100 children with disabilities are supported through this programme and nearly 60% of the children passed out 10th, 11th and 12th grade government exams.

There are two approaches, one is life oriented skill based, and goal oriented approach for those children who cannot succeed in academic education and non-formal academic approach which will help children to complete education through non-formal means and complete the academic education and move further. These two approaches are totally individual based and implemented after assessing the needs of the child and deciding the course of intervention.

In the academic education plan the training focused on academic subjects such as language, mathematics, science and social science as well as preparing the children for the government and school examination.

In the life oriented non-formal approach children gain all the needed skills for successful living in family and community as well as pre-vocational and vocational skills.

This includes skill development in the following areas:

- Maintenance of the family equipments
- basic skills in stitching,
- cooking,
- bakery work,
- packing,
- flower garland making,
- painting,
- garden work,
- farm work and
- goat rearing and poultry .

Training to children with disabilities in areas of integrated farm skills, entrepreneurship skills, leadership skills, personality skills, computer skills and family living skills helped the children to live successfully in community and family.

Based on the experiences on community based rehabilitation services, the rehabilitation council of India has recognized Holy Cross Service Society to offer community based inclusive development certificate course.

The training programme for rural Tamil medium children to upgrade their skills in computer could be done for the rural children. Professional experts completed the full curriculum of training rural Tamil medium children in computer skills covering a period of 200 hours and also with all details of activities as well as practical that has been given to the children.

The course content covers aspects of paint brush, note pad, word pad, MS word, MS Excel, MS power point, internet and audio and video. The children showed extraordinary interest in the learning. They also participated in the practical programme and parents are so happy, they want their children to continue this skill development so that they can be successful in life.

Persons with disabilities from rural locations can be gainfully employed either in their own land or in villages when they gain skills in rural agro based farm work. This has to be integrated approach where the individual person with disability gains multiple skills. We have developed a farm to assist PWDs to gain skills.

The skills gained in the farm work are:

- Cleaning hand and organizing Jasmine garden
- Use of hoe and regulating water
- Watering plants
- Theory class on chicken breeding
- Feeding chicken in farm
- Weeds removal
- Watering Jasmine garden and regulating water
- The diseases affecting chicken in farm
- Breeding principles in chicken farm
- Planting fruit plants – Mango, Goya
- Planting flower garden
- Organizing chicken farm – principles
- Putting fertilizer in Jasmine garden
- Watering plants in garden
- Taking care of chicken farm and medical need

- Soil, concept of upgrading soil and concept of fertilizer
- Plucking flowers from Jasmine garden
- Basics of chicken farm

Networking Partnership with NGOs of Tamil Nadu promoting Inclusive CBR services. This is a programme to promote quality of services through partner NGOs. 10 NGOs participated in this venture and we are training workers of the NGO partners on promoting professional services to children with disabilities (CWDs).

The screening tool to identify the learning problems of children studying in regular school is done. The same is now given to CBR workers and general educators for using in the tools.

- We did analysis of the skills, a child need to gain at grade levels in language with our experience of working in this field for over 30 years.
- We worked the skill set needed at 1st grade to 5th grade to gain language comprehension in English language and printed the 1st and 2nd grade skills.
- We have also developed the first Tamil Grammar teaching book for children with special needs and learning disability so that children with disabilities can understand grammar of Tamil language and appear for TNPSC group IV examination. 20 students are trained for Group IV examination.
- We have developed a structured training programme to promote English language comprehension skills in 1st to 5th grade. This programme called Language Education Programme is offered through online free of cost to more than 60 children in English medium and hundreds of power point materials are developed and used. The same will be uploaded in google drive so that the needy children and parents can request us to access the facility.
- We have also worked out content related work sheets and linked it with the learning out come. A documented system of assessment is now functional.
- We developed many power point materials to promote and teach language. Teachers using their creativity also supported children to gain goal oriented language skills through zoom.
- 5 days a week teachers support children for language development. Every week they report the learning out come. Once in 2 months, they evaluate the learning of the child in English language comprehension using a structured tool developed by us.

Sign language support for parents and educators assists over 70 persons. All hearing impaired children are getting support for sign language

Production of Books on learning disability, short stories written by school children, Learning needs of children and Short booklets on needs of children with special needs are all developed and produced.

Training programs for Parents, Workers of Disabled, Teachers, Special Educators, SSA educators, ICDS workers, NGO leaders and Government Personnel trained more than 800 people during the year.

Holy Cross Service Society is offering certificate course for Persons with disabilities on entrepreneurship skills with affiliation to Madras School of Social Work, Chennai. Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) course is offered with recognition from Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI). Diploma course on an Early Childhood Education and Vocational Training in Computer are offered with affiliation to Tamil Nadu Open University.

We record with gratitude the support from KNH Germany, Andheri Hilfe-Germany, CHAI-LF from Secunderabad, Sense India from Ahmadabad and Different but able from carry NC and Trichy Kids, Netherlands for supporting us to reach, assist and support CWDs and PWDs.

Appeal: If you want to join the efforts of HCSS Trichy to reach more disabled in rural areas, you can support us.

Some additional information:

The following covers the other areas of support in our work :

- Screening / Identification
- Assistance from Government & other resources
- Hearing Aids / Appliances
- Ear moulds
- Sign Language
- World Disabled Day
- Awareness campaigns
- Medical camps
- Food support for Residential Children
- Dresses Assessment support (Audio logical , Psychological,
- Vision, Speech Language)

Training Programmes conducted during the year

Date	Title	No. of Participants / Name of Participant
10.1.24	Experience Learning - Pongal celebration	250
26.1.24	Republic day	90
30.1.24	Health nutrition	25
6.2.24	Pediatric guidance of the parents	31
10.2.24	Father's day	26
20.2.24	APF	
27.2.24	Language Exhibition	35
7.3.24	PASAM - 24th Annual Day	27
9.3.24	STAKE HOLDERS MEET – RIGHTS & NEEDS OF PWDs	25
12.3.24	General school teachers training on Andhanallur block	105
16.3.24	CBF - Certification distribution	12
21.3.24	Ramzan	79 (children, Parents & teachers)
27.3.24	Parents training on Behaviour modification	22
12.4.24	Parents training on Learning for Inclusive	8
17.4.24	Parents training on Social skills	25
12.5.24	Exhibition - Language comprehension	20
27.6.24	Parents training on Child health development	23
23.7.24	Training on importance early identification and early intervention	60 (1st Year MSW students - Bishop Heber college)
30.7.24	Training on importance early identification and early intervention	16 (1st year MSW - Jamal mohamed college)
15.8.24	Independence day celebration	64 (Children, Parents & Teachers)